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1. **HUMANITARIAN CHARTER AND MINIMUM STANDARDS IN DISASTER RESPONSE, REVISED EDITION.**

Sphere Project. 2004. [Note: Contains copyrighted material.]

[Note: The Sphere Project is a program of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR), InterAction, Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE) and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA).]

The aim of the Sphere Project is to improve the quality of assistance provided to people affected by disasters, and to enhance the accountability of the humanitarian organizations in disaster response. The handbook is designed for use in disaster response, and may also be useful in disaster preparedness and humanitarian advocacy. It is applicable in a range of situations where relief is required, including natural disasters as well as armed conflict. The emphasis throughout is on meeting the urgent survival needs of people affected by disaster, while asserting their basic human right to life with dignity. The Humanitarian Charter, outlined in the first section of this document, is based on the principles and provisions of international humanitarian law, international human rights law, refugee law and the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief.

Full Report: http://www.sphereproject.org/handbook/hdbkpdf/hdbk_full.pdf [pdf format, 344 pages]

Table of Contents: <http://www.sphereproject.org/handbook/index.htm> [Chapters in pdf format, various pagings]

2. **AFTER ARAFAT? CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS.**

International Crisis Group (ICG). December 23, 2004.

This report assesses developments following the death of Yasir Arafat on November 11, 2004. The authors note that while the transition process seems off to a healthy start, it is an exceedingly delicate affair with many suppressed rivalries awaiting the new leadership's first slip to reassert themselves. On the Israeli side, too, tensions raised by the forthcoming Gaza withdrawal - and the prospect of widespread settler and right-wing efforts to thwart it -- dictate prudent and judicious diplomacy over coming months. The report cautions that the world should not be lulled into complacency by the atmosphere of good will and harmony over the question of Palestinian reform and Israeli disengagement.

http://www.icg.org/library/documents/middle_east_north_africa/arab_israeli_conflict/041223_after_arafat_challenges_and_prospects.pdf [pdf format, 16 pages]

3. **THE UNITED STATES, EUROPE, AND THE WIDER MIDDLE EAST.**

Shahram Chubin, Bruce Hoffman and William Rosenau. RAND. Web-posted December 27, 2004

On June 27-29, 2004, the Center for Middle East Public Policy (CMEPP), a RAND National Security Research Division program, and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) held a workshop focusing on the United States, Europe, and the greater Middle East. This summary of the proceedings present an informal discussion among a group of experts who explored a set of five topics: the insurgency in Iraq, the Arab-Israeli situation, the terrorist threat, internal security in Saudi Arabia, and Iran and the proliferation of WMD. Each topic is addressed with an eye toward understanding their implications for the region as a whole and exploring what the broader consequences might be for American and European policy.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/conf_proceedings/2004/RAND_CF210.pdf [pdf format, 22 pages]

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4. CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, 2003.

Thomas P. Bonczar and Tracy L. Snell. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). November 14, 2004.

This publication presents characteristics of persons under sentence of death in the United States on December 31, 2003, and of persons executed in 2003. Preliminary data on executions by States during 2004 are included, and the report summarizes the movement of prisoners into and out of death sentence status during 2003. Numerical tables present data on offenders' sex, race, Hispanic origin, education, marital status, age at time of arrest for capital offense, legal status at time of capital offense, methods of execution, trends, and time between imposition of death sentence and execution.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cp03.pdf> [pdf format, 17 pages]

5. AL QAEDA: STATEMENTS AND EVOLVING IDEOLOGY. [RS21973]

Christopher M. Blanchard, Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. November 16, 2004.

The release of a new videotape by Osama Bin Laden in late October 2004 rekindled public debate surrounding Al Qaeda's ideology, motives, and future plans to attack the United States. The highly political tone and content of the two most recent statements released by Osama Bin Laden [April and October 2004] have led some terrorism analysts to speculate that the messages may signal a new attempt by Bin Laden to create a lasting political leadership role for himself and Al Qaeda as the vanguard of an international Islamist ideological movement. This report reviews Osama Bin Laden's use of public statements from the mid-1990s to the present and analyzes the evolving ideological and political content of those statements.

<http://www.fas.org/irp/crs/RS21973.pdf> [pdf format, 6 pages]

6. FOUR YEARS - INTIFADA, CLOSURES AND PALESTINIAN ECONOMIC CRISIS: AN ASSESSMENT.

World Bank. October 2004; Web-posted November 22, 2004

This third in a series of reports that examine the impact of the socio-economic crisis in the West Bank and Gaza points out that despite a modest and short-term increase in jobs in 2003, labor market indicators show an economy performing well below its potential. The unemployment rate stood at 25 percent in 2003, compared with 10 percent before the intifada. Young people in particular were hard hit - 37 percent were without jobs compared with 14 percent before the intifada. According to the report, the living standards of Palestinians have dramatically declined.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWESTBANKGAZA/Resources/wbgaza-4yrassessment.pdf> [pdf format, 116 pages]

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7. 109TH CONGRESS: NEW MEMBER PICTORIAL DIRECTORY.

United States Congress, House of Representatives. Committee on House Administration. Web-posted November 29, 2004.

This is the House of Representatives' photo album of the new members of the House, winners in the November congressional elections. They will be joining Representatives who were re-elected from the 108th Congress when the new (109th) Congress convenes in January. There is very little accompanying biographical data, but these black and white photographs are of good quality.

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/pictorial/109th/pdf/fulldoc1.pdf> [pdf format, 24 pages]

8. WORLD ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SURVEY 2004. PART 1: TRENDS AND POLICIES IN THE WORLD ECONOMY; PART 2: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (ESA). November 29, 2004.

The World Economic and Social Survey (WESS) is the United Nations' annual analysis of current developments in the world economy and emerging policy issues. The publication reviews major developments in international trade and it discusses the net transfer of financial resources of developing countries. It also contains the Secretariat's forecast of short-term global and regional economic trends.

Full Report - Part 1: <http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wess2004files/part1web.pdf> [pdf format, 188 pages]

Full Report - Part 2: <http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wess2004files/part2web/part2web.pdf> [pdf format, 274 pages]

Overview - Part 2 only: <http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wess2004files/part2web/presskit.pdf> [pdf format, 29 pages]

9. THE ORIGINS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, 1940-1952.

Thomas L. Burns. National Security Agency (NSA), Center for Cryptologic History. 1990; Declassified and Web-posted September 2004.

This document traces the evolution of the military structures from the early 1930s to the establishment of a unique agency to deal with COMINT (communications intelligence) - the National Security Agency (NSA) - in 1952. The study, requested by the Memory Hole under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), recounts the evolution of a national SIGINT (signal intelligence) effort following World War II. It records the history of non-cooperation between the Army and Navy before Pearl Harbor, and documents the armed services as they sought to cope with a greatly changed environment following the war. Burns identifies most of the major themes which have contributed to the development of the institutions that characterize the intelligence profession: the struggle between centralized and decentralized control of SIGINT, inter-service and inter-agency rivalries, budget problems, tactical versus national strategic requirements, the difficulties of mechanization of processes, and the rise of a strong bureaucracy.

[Note: Due to the size of this file, The Memory Hole highly recommends that you first save it to your hard drive, then open it from there: PC users: Right-click to save the file to your hard drive; Mac users: Control-click to save.]

http://www.thememoryhole.org/nsa/origins_of_nsa.pdf [pdf format, 155 pages]

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10. LINKS TO KEY DOCUMENTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

Digital History. Updated December 1, 2004.

[Note: Digital History is a project developed by partnerships among the University of Houston, the Chicago Historical Society, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service and the Project for the Active Teaching of American History.]

This URL below is not to a single document, but links to a portal of dozens of documents that are central in the history of the United States. The documents are listed in chronological order, from the Magna Carta to Kenneth Starr's Independent Council's Report on President Bill Clinton. There is a very wide selection of documents, from declarations to presidential address to statutes to memoirs from periods such as the California Gold Rush. A very useful resource for American Studies programs, for speechwriters seeking the exact wording of an historic presidential speech, or for researchers who need the text of eighteenth- and nineteenth- century legislation.

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/other_documents/other_documents.cfm [Documents in various formats and sizes]

11. INSURGENCY AND COUNTERINSURGENCY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: RECONCEPTUALIZING THREAT AND RESPONSE.

Steven Metz and Raymond A. Millen. United States Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute (SSI). November 2004.

Modern insurgency warfare presents fresh challenges for the United States, which must re-conceptualize its approach to fighting such conflicts, according to this report. Because the dominant characteristics of insurgency--protracted operations and ambiguity with regard to participants--effectively stymie the American military's approach to war, the United States needs to reorient its strategic thinking. The key to success is not for the U.S. military to become better at counterinsurgency, say the authors, but for the U.S. military (and other elements of the government) to be skilled at helping local security and intelligence forces become effective at it.

<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ssi/pdf/PUB586.pdf> [pdf format, 51 pages]

12. WORLD POPULATION TO 2300.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (ESA). Population Division. Web-posted November 6, 2004.

[Note: Contains copyrighted material.]

The world's population three centuries from now will stabilize at 9 billion if fertility levels continue their decline, particularly in the developing world, but could also top more than 1.3 trillion if they remain unchanged from current rates, according to this new statistical report from the UN's Economic and Social Affairs Department (ESA). According to "medium"-level projections, the average woman in every country will each have about two children in the decades to come, raising the world population from its current 6.4 billion to 9 billion in 2300. If fertility levels remain unchanged at today's levels, however, world population would rise to 44 billion in 2100, 244 billion persons in 2150 and 1.34 trillion in 2300. The UN said this clearly indicates that "current high fertility levels cannot continue over the long term."

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/longrange2/WorldPop2300final.pdf> [pdf format, 254 pages]

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13. HATE CRIME STATISTICS, 2003.

United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). November 22, 2004.

According to this report, antagonism toward a particular race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity/national origin, or physical or mental disability prompted crimes against 9,100 victims in the U.S. during 2003. The data are aggregated from hate crime reports submitted by local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies throughout the nation. The survey categorizes the data by type of location and found that the majority of hate crime incidents (32.0 percent) took place in or on residential properties. Highways, roads, alleys, or streets were the settings for 17.6 percent of the reported incidents, and 11.8 percent took place at schools and colleges. The remaining incidents were distributed among various other locations.

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/03hc.pdf> [pdf format, 166 pages]

14. READY OR NOT? PROTECTING THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH IN THE AGE OF BIOTERRORISM -- 2004.

Trust for America's Health (TFAH). December 14, 2004.

With input from a committee of public health experts, Trust for America's Health (TFAH) researchers developed 10 key indicators to assess all the states' public health emergency preparedness capabilities. Results are also included for the District of Columbia. Viewed collectively, these indicators provide a composite snapshot of capabilities, improvement and gaps in the individual states' readiness to confront public health emergencies.

Main report website: <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror04/> (state by state results, with discussions of each state's strengths and weaknesses)

Full Report: <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror04/BioTerror04Report.pdf> [pdf format, 72 pages]

Executive Summary: <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror04/BioTerror04ExecSum.pdf> [pdf format, 4 pages]

15. IRAN'S DEVELOPING MILITARY CAPABILITIES.

Anthony Cordesman. Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS). December 8, 2004.

According to Cordesman, Iran is a far less modern military power in comparative terms than it was during the time of the Shah, or during the Iran-Iraq War. Nevertheless, it is slowly improving its conventional forces, and is now the only regional military power that poses a serious conventional military threat to Gulf stability. Iran has significant capabilities for asymmetric warfare, and poses the additional threat of proliferation. There is considerable evidence, says the author, that Iran is developing both a long-range missile force and a range of weapons of mass destruction. It has never properly declared its holdings of chemical weapons, and the status of its biological weapons programs is unknown. The disclosures made by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) since 2002 indicate that it is likely that Iran will continue to covertly seek nuclear weapons.

Full Report: http://www.csis.org/burke/mb/041208_IranDevMilCapMnRpt.pdf [pdf format, 76 pages]

Full Report with Appendices: http://www.csis.org/burke/mb/041208_IranDevMilCap.pdf [pdf format, 127 pages]

Executive Summary: http://www.csis.org/burke/mb/041208_IranDevMilCapExecSum.pdf [pdf format, 21 pages]

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16. ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR MONEY SERVICES BUSINESSES WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN AGENTS OR FOREIGN COUNTERPARTIES. INTERPRETIVE RELEASE 2004-1.

United States Department of Treasury. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). December 8, 2004.

Since April 2002, Money Services Businesses have been required to establish anti-money laundering programs to guard against money laundering and terrorist financing. Today's Guidance specifically requires that, to the extent a Money Services Business (MSB) uses relationships with foreign agents and counterparties to facilitate the movement of funds into or out of the United States, the Money Services Business' anti-money laundering program must reasonably address the risks of money laundering and the financing of terrorism posed those relationships with foreign agents or foreign counterparties. The Guidance applies only to Money Services Businesses required to register with FinCEN, as these are the entities most likely to use foreign agents or foreign counterparties in their operations.

<http://www.fincen.gov/msbagentadvisory.pdf> [pdf format, 12 pages]

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